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The Presentation of the
Samurai Sword to the
Town of Fairhaven,
« Massachusetts »

→ July 4, 1918 ←



Class _____

Book _____

PRESENTED BY _____



VISCOUNT KIKUJIRO ISHII.

THE PRESENTATION OF A SAMURAI SWORD

THE GIFT OF DOCTOR TOICHIRO NAKAHAMA, OF
TOKIO, JAPAN, TO THE TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN,
MASSACHUSETTS, BY VISCOUNT KIKUJIRO ISHII,
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,
JULY THE FOURTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTEEN

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FOREWORD.

On the Fourth of July, nineteen hundred and eighteen, Viscount Ishii, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, presented to the town of Fairhaven, a Samurai sword, a precious memento of the fourteenth century, the gift of Dr. Toichiro Nakahama of Tokio in commemoration of the rescue of his father, Manjiro Nakahama, by Captain William H. Whitfield of Fairhaven.

Not only was the presentation of this sword an event of signal honor to Fairhaven, but of international significance as well, for the occasion served as a medium for the emphasis of friendly relations between the two countries, Japan and the United States.

To preserve in convenient printed form, a permanent record of the celebration incident to the presentation of the sword this pamphlet is issued. It is appropriate that The Millicent Library, the custodian of the sword, should undertake its publication.

THE STORY OF MANJIRO NAKAHAMA.

In the log book of the whaling vessel "John Howland," Captain William H. Whitfield, master, sailing from New Bedford for the Japan Sea in 1839, appear the following entries.

Sunday, June 27, 1841.

This day light wind from S. E. Isle in sight at 1 P. M. Sent in two boats to see if there was any turtle, found 5 poor distressed people on the isle, took them off, could not understand anything from them more than that they was hungry. Made the latitude of the isle 30 deg. 31 m. N.

Monday, June 28.

This day light winds from S. E. the island in sight. To the Westward, stood to the S. W. at 1 P. M. landed and brought off what few clothes the five men left.

Such is the simple prosaic record which marks the first incident in a romantic story, destined to influence international relations between our country and Japan on at least two occasions.

The five men thus rescued were Japanese fishermen, who had been blown out to sea in a storm and had found refuge on the rocky "isle" where for nearly six months they had led a precarious existence subsisting on sea birds and turtle eggs.

At the end of the whaling season in October, 1841, Captain Whitfield landed four of the Japanese at Honolulu, but one, a boy of fourteen or fifteen, who had acted as a sort of cabin boy to the captain, had

become so much attached to Captain Whitfield that he begged to be allowed to complete the voyage and come to America. The youth had picked up the English language and spoke with considerable facility and his good nature and willingness to work and to learn had endeared him to the Captain and his crew. His Japanese name was, however, much too formidable for the sailors and Manjiro Nakahama was Anglicized to plain John Mung.

On his arrival home in Fairhaven, Captain Whitfield, who was a widower at the time, made arrangements for the Japanese boy to stay with his relatives and attend school. Later when Captain Whitfield married a second time and established a home on Scontient Neck, Nakahama became a member of his household. It is significant that he was never regarded as a servant but rather as a foster son to Captain Whitfield who encouraged him to attend the private schools of the town and treated him as one of his own family. It was the custom for Fairhaven boys of that time to learn a trade, usually some trade connected with the whaling industry and in addition to his school work, Nakahama mastered the trade of cooper. During his residence in Fairhaven, the characteristics which impressed themselves on the memories of such of his schoolmates as are now living were his industry and the ease with which he mastered his studies, especially mathematics, his peculiar interest in the study of navigation, and an all consuming desire to return to Japan to see his mother once more. At that time the ports of Japan were closed and the law of the land decreed a penalty of death to natives who left the islands and returned.

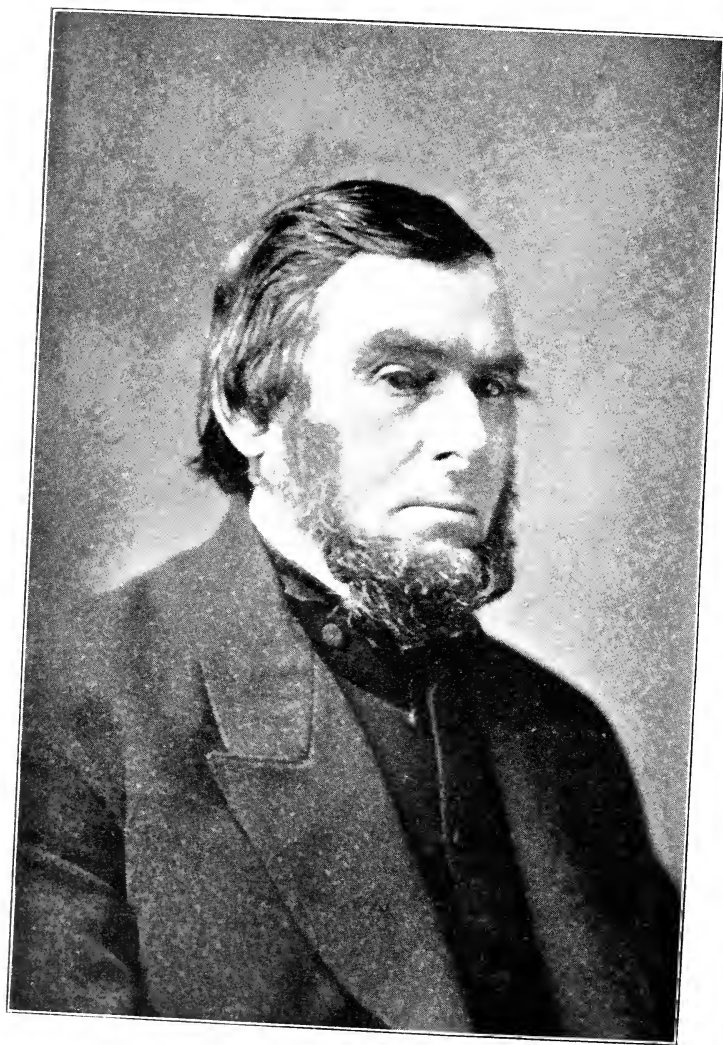
In 1847 he made a voyage to the Pacific as cooper on the New Bedford bark "Franklin." In 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he tried his fortune at the mines with moderate success. During these years his mind was constantly set on returning to Japan, and after four months in the gold fields he went to Honolulu where he found three of his former companions of the shipwreck, one having died. They were as anxious to return as he and with the friendly assistance of the American consul, Mr. Allen, and the chaplain of the Seaman's Bethel at Honolulu, the Rev. Samuel C. Damon, the party were outfitted with a whale boat and provisions and a merchant ship sailing for China agreed to put them off near the Loo Choo islands off Japan. The plan was carried out and for ten years the Whitfield family had no word of the Japanese boy. Then in 1860 came a letter describing his fortunes in picturesque language, which is reproduced here.

Sandwich Island, May 2, 1860.

Captain William H. Whitfield.

My Honored friend—I am very happy to say that i had an opportunity to say to you a few lines. I am still living and hope you were the same blessing. i wish to meet you in this world once more. How happy we would be. Give my best respect to Mrs. and Miss Amelia Whitfield, i long to see them. Capt. you must not send your boys to the whaling business; you must send them to Japan, i will take care of him or them if you will. Let me know before send and I will make the arrangement for it.

Now I will let you know how am i arrived to my Native Country. You know that i have been to the Gold Mine; here stayed 4 month, average eight Dolls per day, beside expenses, from here i made my mind to get back and to see Dear Mother and also Shiped in one of the American Merchant men. In this vessel i arrived to Sand which



CAPT. WILLIAM H. WHITFIELD.

Island. I found our friend Mr. Damon and through his kindness bought a whale boat and put her into a Merchantman. This vessel was going to Shanghai in China.

It was January very cold that part of country; Time i went on shore south off Great Loo Choo it was gail with snow. The Capt. of vessel he wish me to stay with him and to go to China, but i refused it, because i wanted to see Mother. The boat is ready for me to get in, myself, Denново & Goyesman jump in to the boat, parted with ship at 4 P. M. After ten hours hard pull we arrived lee of Island and anchored untill morning. i went on shore amongst the Loo Choose, but i cannot understand their language, i have forgot all Japanese words. I stay here six months, under care of the King of Loo Choo, waiting for Japanese junk to come.

In the month of July get on board junk and went into the Harbour of Nagashirki Island, off Kie-u-see-u, waiting to get permission for 30 month before we get to our residence. After all the things is properly regulated we were send to our residence. It was great joy to Mother and all the relation. i have stay with my Mother only 3 day and night the Emperor called me to Jedo. Now i became one emperian officer. At this time i am attached this vessel.

This war steamer were send by Emperor of Japan to the Compliment of the President of America. We went to San Francisco, California, and now homeward bound, at Sandwich to touch Island to secure some coal and provision. I wish to send the letter from San Francisco but so many Japanese eyes i can't. i wrote this between passage from San Francisco to Island. Excuse me many mistakes. i can write better after our arrived Japan Jedo.

I wish for you to come to Japan, i will now lead my Dear Friend to my house, now the port opened to all the nations. I found our friend Samuel C. Damon. We was so happy each other I cannot write it all. When get home I will write better acct. I will send to you sut of my clothe. It is not new, but only for remember me.

I remain your friend,

John Mungero (May 25 1860.)

Between the lines of his letter and from the testimony of his friend, Mr. Damon, who had a long talk with him at the time of this visit to Honolulu, it is apparent that the boy John Mung had become a man of importance in his native country.

During the months of his detention at Nagasaki, Nakahama, as a Japanese who had been to America, naturally attracted a great deal of attention. He was attended by eager crowds anxious to hear of his adventures, and he lost no opportunity to recount the virtues and the kindness of the Americans. He was finally brought before the great Shogun at Tokio where he found favor with the emperor and was commissioned to teach English and navigation in the naval schools of Japan, and also translated Bowditch's "Navigator" into Japanese. The following paragraph from the account of Nakahama prepared by the Japanese Embassy testifies to the part he played when the famous Perry treaty between Japan and the United States was negotiated.

"On that great historic event when the Perry Mission from the United States landed at Uraga in 1853, Manjiro served as interpreter. No more suitable person could have been found in all Japan. Manjiro knew the American spirit and desires. Any blunder on his part might have resulted in an international disaster. As it was, the Perry mission was a great success. In spite of the powerful conservatism of Japan's ruling classes at that time, the country was opened to world-wide commerce. The kindness shown by Captain Whitfield, by the good people of Fairhaven and New Bedford toward a lone young Japanese boy was truly fruitful."

As the spirit of western progress gradually permeated Japan, Manjiro Nakahama naturally became a leader in its development, and his ability and experience made him a man whose advice was constantly

sought. He became connected with an institute for the study of modern steamship construction and later engaged in the promotion of the whaling industry in Japan. He continued to teach English and navigation and was an officer on the first Japanese steamer to cross the Pacific to California. It was during this voyage that he had his first opportunity to communicate with Captain Whitfield.

In 1870 he was one of a commission sent to Europe by the Japanese government to study military science during the Franco-Prussian war. At this time Nakahama came to this country and was formally received at Washington. He made use of the opportunity offered to revisit Fairhaven and spent one night with Captain Whitfield.

In his later days Nakahama was appointed a professor in the University of Tokio. He married in Japan and had several children, the eldest of whom is Dr. Teichiro Nakahama, a prominent physician of Tokio and a distinguished personage in the empire. He is the donor of the sword which commemorates the rescue of his father and the kindness shown him during his residence in Fairhaven. Manjiro Nakahama died in 1898 at the age of seventy-one.

There is deep significance in the thought that the thread of sentiment connecting Manjiro Nakahama and Fairhaven has never been broken and that to the second generation, it remains strong and steadfast. In the phrase of one of the speakers of the day, "We are here because a brave American was kind and a loyal Japanese remembered."



MANJIRO NAKAHAMA.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE SWORD.

In the annals of Fairhaven, the Fourth of July, 1918, will long be remembered as probably the most unique and certainly one of the most important days in the history of the town.

About the middle of June, word was conveyed to the selectmen of the town, Charles P. Maxfield, John I. Bryant and Thomas W. Whitfield, that Viscount Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, desired to visit Fairhaven to make formal presentation of a beautiful Samurai sword which Dr. Toichiro Nakahama of Tokio, Japan, had requested him to present to the town in commemoration of the rescue of his father, Manjiro Nakahama, by Captain William H. Whitfield, who was born and made his home in Fairhaven. It was an odd coincidence that one of the three selectmen should have been a grandson of Captain Whitfield.

An invitation to Viscount Ishii to visit Fairhaven on July 4th was immediately sent and a committee of citizens appointed to arrange for a celebration which should be commensurate with the honor conferred upon Fairhaven by the bestowal of such a priceless gift through the medium of Japan's supreme official representative in this country.

The enthusiastic welcome accorded Viscount Ishii attested Fairhaven's appreciation of the honor of his presence on such an errand. By the provision of a perfect summer day, Nature seemingly approved the deci-

sion to hold the exercises out of doors in the High School Stadium, and never was stage setting more appropriate to day and event. The whole town, in fact, was in gala attire. American and Japanese flags and bunting were to be seen on every hand. The town hall, the library, the churches, as well as the stores and blocks in the business section were liberally adorned with bunting, and for the whole length of Washington Street from the Mattapoisett line and continuing across the Fairhaven-New Bedford bridge, banners were displayed from wires stretched across the street at intervals. At the Rogers' Memorial Monument at the end of the bridge, Japanese and American flags were placed at each corner of the shaft. Many homes displayed flags of both nations.

Soon after nine o'clock Viscount Ishii and his party arrived from Mattapoisett, where they were the house guests of Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, and were met at the Fairhaven end of the bridge by Lieutenant Governor Coolidge, members of the Governor's staff, representatives of the New Bedford city government, and military and naval escort. They then proceeded to the New Bedford High School, where exercises were held, addresses being given by Mayor Ashley, Lieutenant Governor Coolidge, Viscount Ishii and Mr. Hamlin.

Immediately following the exercises in New Bedford, the Ambassador and his party were met by a committee from Fairhaven and proceeded to Riverside Cemetery accompanied by members of the Whitfield family. Here a simple but impressive ceremony took place, when the Ambassador placed a wreath upon the grave of Captain Whitfield. Returning from the cemetery, Viscount Ishii called at the home of Mrs. Eben Akin, on Oxford street, the house where Manjiro

Nakahama spent his first two weeks in Fairhaven over seventy-five years ago.

The party next proceeded to the Tabitha Inn, where a buffet luncheon was served the guests and members of the committee. After the luncheon, the Ambassador and party visited the Memorial Church, The Millicent Library and the town hall, where the log book of the whaleship "John Howland" and other mementoes of Nakahama and Captain Whitfield were shown the guests.

While the Ambassador and his party were in the town hall, the parade, consisting of a battalion of regulars from Fort Rodman, Naval Reserves from the Fairhaven barracks, the Fairhaven State Guard and the Naval Reserve Band from Newport, was formed on Center street, and as the Ambassador came down the steps the national salute was given. The parade then proceeded through William, Union and Green streets to Cushman Park, through the park and Park Avenue to Huttleston Avenue and into the stadium by the west entrance. After the speakers and guests had proceeded to the platform, the men in uniform marched into the Stadium and formed in assembly in front of the stand, a most impressive sight, and a credit to Lieutenant Loring Washburn of the Fairhaven Naval Reserve Station, who was in charge of the parade.

With the speakers on the platform, as guests of honor, were the Ambassador's party consisting of Viscountess Ishii, Lieutenant Colonel Tani Kawa, the Ambassador's aide; Lieutenant J. P. Hartt, representing the naval commandant at Newport; Mrs. Charles S. Hamlin and Miss Anna Hamlin, members of the Governor's staff, Mayor Charles S. Ashley and other representatives of the New Bedford city government, the

Selectmen of Fairhaven, Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus P. Whitfield and other relatives of Captain Whitfield, such of the schoolmates of Manjiro Nakahama as are still living, and many distinguished guests from out of town.

Directly behind the speaker's stand, the center of the grandstand, occupied by the chorus of school children dressed in white, formed a pleasing background to the picture. It is estimated that over ten thousand people witnessed the ceremonies. The exercises began promptly at 2:30 P. M. with the program as printed on the next page.



Fourth of July, Nineteen Hundred and Eighteen

Presentation of Samurai Sword To the Town of Fairhaven

America

Charles P. Maxfield, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen

Welcome on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Calvin Coolidge

Japanese Anthem
Newport Naval Reserve Band

Presentation of the Samurai Sword given by Dr. Nakahama of Japan
His Excellency, Viscount Ishii, Ambassador of Japan

Acceptance of the Sword
By Thomas W. Whitfield, grandson of Capt. William H. Whitfield

Acceptance on behalf of the Town of Fairhaven
Rev. George Hale Reed

Souza's "Stars and Stripes Forever"

Address
Honorable Charles S. Hamlin

Keller's "American Hymn"

Presentation of American Flag from School Children of Fairhaven
to the People of Japan
Master Willard Delano Whitfield and Wellington Bingham

Star Spangled Banner

OPENING REMARKS.

CHARLES P. MAXFIELD,

Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Fairhaven.

Distinguished Guests and Fellow Citizens:

We have assembled this afternoon on America's greatest legal holiday to witness one of the most important ceremonies with which our Town has been favored.

We have met here in accordance with the request of Viscount Ishii, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, made to your Selectmen. He acts in behalf of Dr. Nakahama of Japan, son of Manjiro Nakahama, who was rescued with others by Captain William H. Whitfield from an island in the China sea and afterwards educated in our public schools before returning to his native country. In commemoration of that event he has come to present to our town a beautiful Samurai Sword, centuries old and of priceless value, as an emblem of gratitude and good will toward the people of the United States.

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE COMMON- WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CALVIN COOLIDGE,
Acting Governor.

We have met on this anniversary of American independence to assess the dimensions of a kind deed. Nearly four score years ago the master of a whaling vessel sailing from this port rescued from a barren rock in the China sea some Japanese fishermen. Among them was a young boy whom he brought home with him to Fairhaven, where he was given advantages of New England life and sent to school with the boys and girls of the neighborhood, where he excelled in his studies. But as he grew up he was filled with a longing to see Japan and his aged mother. He knew that the duty of filial piety lay upon him according to the teachings of his race, and he was determined to meet that obligation. I think that is one of the lessons of this day. Here was a youth who determined to pursue the course which he had been taught was right. He braved the dangers of the voyage and the greater dangers that awaited an absentee from his country under the then existing laws, to perform his duty to his mother and to his native land. In making that return I think we are entitled to say that he was the first ambassador of America to the court of Japan, for his extraordinary experience soon brought him into association with the highest officials of his country, and his presence there prepared the way for the friendly reception which was given to Commodore Perry when he

was sent to Japan to open relations between that government and the government of America.

And so we see how out of the kind deed of Captain Whitfield, friendly relations which have existed for many years between the people of Japan and the people of America were encouraged and made possible. And it is in recognition of that event that we have here today this great concourse of people, this martial array, and the representative of the Japanese people—a people who have never failed to respond to an act of kindness.

It was with special pleasure that I came here representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to extend an official welcome to His Excellency Viscount Ishii, who comes here to present to the town of Fairhaven a Samurai sword on behalf of the son of that boy who was rescued long ago. This sword was once the emblem of place and caste and arbitrary rank. It has taken on a new significance because Captain Whitfield was true to the call of humanity, because a Japanese boy was true to his call of duty. This emblem will hereafter be a token not only of the friendship that exists between two nations but a token of liberty, of freedom, and of the recognition by the governments of both these nations of the rights of the people. Let it remain here as a mutual pledge by the giver and the receiver of their determination that the motive which inspired the representatives of each race to do right is to be a motive which is to govern the people of the earth.

PRESENTATION OF THE SAMURAI SWORD.

Given by Dr. Nakahama, of Japan.

His Excellency VISCOUNT ISHII, Ambassador.

Your Honor, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board of Selectmen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The occasion which brings me to your beautiful town today is somewhat out of the line of those official duties which are supposed to engage the attention of diplomatic officers. In reality, the pleasant task which has been assigned to me should have been given to some clear-eyed poet, some chivalric lover of humanity—whose soul was not only attuned to beautiful things, but whose art was equal to the task of giving them adequate expression.

I lay no claim to these high qualifications, but I come to you rejoicing in the opportunity given me of bearing my part—however humble—in the payment of a sacred debt.

The Great Book which you love, and whose precepts underlie all that is best in your civilization, says—"Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." Ecclesiastes, XI: 1.

Upon that beautiful promise, which I interpret to mean that good things never die—that noble actions sooner or later come back in harvests of blessedness—is founded the truest incentive which men have for right living and right acting.

My presence here today is the result of a generous deed on the part of one of your own townsmen. It was performed many years ago, without ostenta-



DR. T. NAKAHAMA,
Donor of the Sword.

tion or hope of reward, but is proof today of his living faith in the precept which I have quoted.

Let me tell you the simple story.

About the middle of the last century, before Commodore Perry's historic visit opened Japan to communication with the outer world, a number of shipwrecked Japanese sailors were rescued near the Rock Islands in the China Sea, by Captain William H. Whitfield who commanded an American whaling vessel in those waters, and who was a native of this good old town of Fairhaven.

The kind-hearted Captain not only took good care of these castaways, but found himself especially drawn to a bright boy among them named Nakahama. This attachment eventually grew into a relationship which was almost like that of father and son. Young Nakahama was sent to the public schools in Fairhaven and was given every opportunity to acquire western learning and a knowledge of the outside world which later stood him in good stead in the country of his birth. He finally went back to Japan where he was well received by the Government, appointed instructor of English language in a Government school, ordered to serve as assistant interpreter in the Commodore Perry negotiations, and afterwards appointed Professor of the University, Yedo. To the day of his death, Nakahama remembered with gratitude the name and the kindness of the American Captain to whom he owed so much.

Now see how contagious kindness may sometimes become.

Nakahama, the wrecked sailor boy, left a son who has since risen to eminence in the medical world

of Japan, and to whom was bequeathed his father's sense of gratitude. This son, Dr. Nakahama, knew the story of his father's early adventures and carried in his heart through all the years a sleepless sense of gratitude. In evidence of this feeling, not only for the memory of Captain Whitfield but for the people of America as well, it finally occurred to him that it would be a graceful thing for him to present to the town of Fairhaven—the birth-place of his father's friend—some slight token of a gratitude which had survived the wear and tear of seventy years. So feeling, he has sent to me this sword with the request that I present it in his name to the town of Fairhaven in grateful remembrance of the generous act of Captain Whitfield and as evidence to the people of your town and the American people that the Japanese heart is responsive to kindness—and does not forget.

I can not tell you, ladies and gentlemen, with what pleasure I respond to these sentiments of Dr. Nakahama and how much satisfaction I find in the performance of this simple duty. This gift may have little intrinsic value, but therein, perhaps, you will find its real value to consist. You are asked to receive it as the concrete token of that something which is without price and above all other values. It is tendered to you at a time in the affairs of a troubled world when men are asking if the old time virtues of gratitude and honor still hold their places in the human heart. It comes at a time when America and Japan stand linked and resolute in defense of a cause which is so holy—so just and right—that all other considerations vanish to nothingness. There is a wider significance to this grateful act of Dr. Naka-

hama than the simple recognition of a personal kindness. It is typical of that rising wave of sympathy and good understanding which begins to roll across the Pacific Ocean and promises to flood both lands with the sweet waters of fraternity and good will.

If you will accept, in this wider sense, this token of Dr. Nakahama's gratitude, you will give it a significance in which every right-thinking and right-feeling man and woman, on both sides of the ocean, will find unalloyed satisfaction.

"But why," some one may ask, "is a sword presented to this peace-loving town in recognition of an act of mercy? Does the sword not typify that which we most abhor?"

There is a sense, my friends, in which the sword is typical of cruelty and wrong. There is another sense in which it stands for the loftiest conceptions of chivalric honor and virtue. To the old Samurai of Japan, whose spirit is reflected in the act of Dr. Nakahama, the sword was the symbol of spotless honor. His right to wear it signified his worthiness to use it aright. What he carried at his belt was a symbol of what he carried in his mind and heart—honor, loyalty, courage, self-control. No unworthy man might carry this sacred token of responsibility. To possess it was to be recognized as worthy to use it aright; to use it amiss constituted the brand of deepest dishonor.

Dr. Nakahama, in offering you this token of his gratitude, has signified to you his perfect trust. He has endeavored to say to you that you are the worthy depositories of all chivalric honor. In no better way could a loyal Japanese as effectually tell you of his loving confidence and deep esteem.

In this spirit I beg of you, Mr. Chairman, to accept for the Town of Fairhaven this tribute of gratitude. The donor would have you preserve it, not only as a monument to the memory of a good man, but as a token of Japanese good will. Dr. Nakahama would say to the descendants of those who were kind to his revered father that which the whole Japanese people would say to the people of America:—We trust you—we love you, and, if you will let us, we will walk at your side in loyal good fellowship down all the coming years.

I thank you.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SWORD.

THOMAS W. WHITFIELD,

Grandson of Capt. William H. Whitfield.

Viscount Ishii, I thank you.

This celebration today is a cause of justifiable pride to Fairhaven, for the gift of this sword has brought here one of the most distinguished of the world's men, Viscount Ishii.

Little did my grandfather dream when he rescued and educated the little Japanese lad, Manjiro Nakahama, that he was making history, and that one day one of his descendants would, in his memory, be accepting such a precious memento from Japan.

Dr. Nakahama surely shows that fine filial devotion, for which the Japanese are noted above all other nations in the world, and I know that the town of Fairhaven feels justly proud of the kind act of one of its citizens—with which it has now become identified.

We realize that this sword is a symbol of all that Japan honors most, in nobility of blood and ideals, and as such it will be held in reverence by the people of Fairhaven in the years to come.

It is especially notable that his gracious act of courtesy and appreciation should be shown on this day, emphasizing as it does the historic friendly relations between the peoples and the governments of Japan and the United States.

In thus honoring Fairhaven, Japan does honor to the whole great American nation, and both nations will extol this rite as a testimony of the faith and good will

between the two most intelligent and most progressive peoples of the earth.

Viscount Ishii, will you personally convey to Dr. Nakahama the thanks and good wishes of all the townspeople of Fairhaven and assure him that we will always prize this sword as our most treasured possession.

Again, I thank you.

ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN.

REV. GEORGE HALE REED.

Your Excellency:—

I have been given the privilege of welcoming you to Fairhaven but I need speak no words of welcome. That welcome is uttered for me in our streets and towers gleaming with the colors of your country and ours, in the happy faces of the crowds, all eager to see you and to clasp your hand. They have said already that we rejoice in your coming, and in the coming of the distinguished representatives of our state and our nation. They have said to you already that you are giving to our town its proudest and happiest day.

You are giving us the great honor of your presence today to bring to us a message and a gift from a son of your country. You are here because a brave American was kind and a loyal Japanese remembered. You, the representative of a mighty Eastern nation, have come to us, because many years ago, on that rock in the China sea, Captain Whitfield saved the life of Nakahama who was to be a strong servant of your nation, because Fairhaven gave the lonely Japanese boy, brought into a strange land, all it had of light and affection, and because Nakahama and his son, Dr. Nakahama, have never forgotten.

This is the background of all this brilliant scene today, the waste of a desolate sea, a barren rock, a Japanese boy with a face pinched by hunger and clothes in tatters through long days of exposure, a New Eng-

land captain stretching out his hand and saying, "Come home with me." One may ask why the waves that went forth from this strange scene on that bleak rock have risen to this high tide of national and international life.

Surely the wonder of this simple scene of the long ago is this: That the life of the Japanese boy and the American captain flowed together so easily, that coming from the opposite ends of the earth, speaking different languages, professing different religions, they were one in so many of the deepest things. That is what impresses us about the life of Nakahama in Fairhaven. The Japanese boy fitted so swiftly and naturally into the American life; the life so quickly and easily into him.

That is the inspiration of that meeting of the Japanese boy and the American captain in the Pacific ocean. That day and the years that followed showed that they were one in so many ways.

First they were one in being fishermen; the American captain had gone forth to fish, and so, also, the Japanese boy who had been blown out of his home waters to shipwreck. There was the fellowship of commercial interest. The ways of these men converged through the common calling in a place too broad for unfriendly competition, too deep for ungenerous rivalry. Japanese and American went down to the sea in ships. So New England touched Japan. They met in the deep places and touched each other.

Then, these two men from different countries whose lives touched way out there in the deep, found that they were one in what we may call their social aims. The American fisherman could not understand the language of the Japanese but he did understand his

deepest needs. "I could not understand their language," wrote Captain Whitfield of the five men he found on the rocks, in the famous log book which we have looked at today, "but they made signs that they were hungry and I understood that." The deepest needs of this man from a strange land Capt. Whitfield could comprehend and could satisfy; for in these elemental human needs the men were one. The Japanese boy was hungry, not only for food, but human companionship, for intellectual life, for friendship, for affection. And how naturally and quickly he found all of these in our own warm hearted American town, in the Whitfield home, in the friendliness of Fairhaven people. He went to our New England schools. He quickly rose to the head of his class. He was swiftly one with the life of the strange homeland and found it satisfying the hunger of his heart and mind.

Then, once more, these fishermen who stood together in the deep places, found in a wonderful way that they were one in the spiritual life. The Japanese boy, the boy of strange religion, came to church with Captain Whitfield, in the Christian church which I now serve, and he found there fellowship and peace—peace in looking up to the Maker of his life, and fellowship with warm-hearted men and women. Just as he felt himself one with Captain Whitfield in the deep places of the sea, he, the foreign boy, was one with the Christian in the deep places of religion. When he talked of the priceless possessions of his heart it was a language his American brothers understood. He told of his gratitude for American kindness, his love of his mother, his desire to go back to his own beloved country, and on these rocks of refuge in the deep

places of the soul's life, the love of friends, of mother, of country, he and his American fellows stood together.

The wonder of that moment in the China Sea was this: That these two men of different races and religions found that in the elemental things, commercial, social, spiritual, they stood side by side, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart.

And surely, Your Excellency, the reason why that moment of the long ago has brought this happy moment of today, is because on that day each man represented his nation. Each stood for the promise that in the coming years Japan and America would stand together in the deep places. That, we feel, is the larger meaning of your coming here. That is the larger meaning of Dr. Nakahama's precious gift—the consciousness that our countries stand together in so many of the fundamental things. That thrills us as we thank you for the honor of your visit—the thought that Japan, that strange, far, fascinating country, that wonderland, the skill of whose handiwork, the glory of whose art, the bravery of whose patriotism, the mystery of whose religion, cast over all Americans who visit it, what one of our own country has called in her book, “the spell of Japan,”—may be one with us in a commerce on a sea too broad for rivalry, in a human need too deep for division, in a spiritual experience too close to God for barriers of creed or sect.

One of Nakahama's contributions from America to your country was a translation of Bowditch's “Navigator.” Surely that suggests the great contribution made by his useful life to the country of his birth and the country of his adoption. He showed that, though

Japanese and American fishermen spoke different languages, they sailed by the same immutable laws, by the same winds, with the same deep under them, and the same stars shining above.

It suggests, indeed, at this moment of international significance, the hope that the ships of state of Japan and America will more and more sail by the same deep laws, by the same landmarks and heaven marks, more and more to the same shining havens. It brings to us the thrill of fellowship between our two great nations, at this time when friendliness between Nations is the gleam of rainbow in the clouds.

Then finally, Your Excellency, I believe there is even a loftier promise in that scene of the fishermen standing together in the deep places, and in the happy meeting of the nations here today. It has a more than national meaning; it has a human prophecy, for it says that wherever two men of different nations are strong enough to stand together in the deep places, they shall find that they are resting upon one rock, looking up to the same stars. They shall know that

“East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet,

Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God’s great Judgment Seat.

But there is neither East nor West, Border nor Breed nor Birth,

When two strong men stand face to face though they come from the ends of the earth.”

ADDRESS.

HONORABLE CHARLES S. HAMLIN.

The occasion which brings us together here today is indeed a memorable one. The bells are ringing and the guns are booming throughout the country. The people are celebrating the most memorable anniversary of our history. The Declaration of Independence is being read in every town and hamlet, and our people are filled with the grim determination that just as we achieved our independence in early days, so now we shall, with our brave army and navy, under the inspiring leadership of our Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, and in conjunction with our Allies, achieve the independence of the world from the threatened rule of an overbearing military oligarchy, and assure its permanent peace and security.

The day is also significant to the people of Fairhaven for another reason—the presence with us of Viscount Ishii, the ambassador of Japan, as our guest. His presence here will mark it as one of the most memorable in the history of the town. In this connection, I wish to tell you some unpublished history, which will keenly interest you. After our guest, the Ambassador, had accepted the Fourth of July as the date fixed upon for this ceremony, the President of the United States invited the entire diplomatic corps to attend the exercises at Mount Vernon on the same day, and, at this very moment, the President is delivering there an address, which will be listened to with rapt attention by the representatives of the great allied nations engaged

in the task of perpetuating freedom throughout the world. The invitation extended to the diplomatic corps to be present on such an occasion could not be regarded otherwise than as a command, and, at first, I feared that our guest would have to forego, for the time being, the pleasure of being with us.. I learned, however, that the President had written to the Ambassador that, while he should regret his absence from Mount Vernon, he sincerely hoped he would feel free to carry out his original plan to come to us today. I feel sure that every citizen of this town will appreciate this thoughtful act of the President, and I shall feel authorized to express to him, in your names, your grateful thanks when I return to Washington.

About seventy-five years ago, Captain Whitfield of Fairhaven, commander of a whaling vessel, while sailing in the China Sea, found some young Japanese boys stranded on a desert island. For months they had been subsisting on sea birds and water taken from the clefts of the rocks, and starvation was fast approaching. Captain Whitfield rescued them and landed all but one of the boys at the Sandwich Islands. For that one he conceived a strong affection. He brought him home to Fairhaven, cared for him in his own family, and had him educated in the public schools. This was the young boy Nakahama, in whose memory we have assembled together today. For some years he dwelt with us. He studied in our public schools. He learned our ways and our form of government, and he studied the character of the American people. Finally returning to Japan, he spent the rest of his life there, respected and revered, dying only a few years ago.

Today his son, Dr. Nakahama, an eminent physician of Japan, sends us this beautiful gift as a memorial

of the saving of the life of his father by Captain Whitfield, and we come together to accept this gift with grateful appreciation of the kindly spirit of the donor.

We shall place it in the Public Library, where it will stand forever as a reminder of the old days and old scenes now sunk beneath the horizon but which will remain forever green in our memory.

We send back today our most grateful thanks to the donor, Dr. Nakahama, with our earnest hope that in the not far future he may come to Fairhaven and view the scenes of his father's early life; that he may visit our public schools in which his father was educated, and that he may meet the few now living who remember his father in those good old days when they studied and wandered together over this beautiful town.

There comes to my mind, however, a feeling of sadness when I realize that Captain Whitfield cannot be here with us. He sleeps peacefully in his grave, but I feel that in spirit he is among us today. The scene this morning, when the Ambassador placed the wreath upon his grave, was one which I can never forget. There instinctively came to my mind the beautiful words of Thomas Gray in his "Elegy on a Country Churchyard:"

"Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid

Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire:

Hands, that the rod of empire might have swayed,

Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre."

Of such mold was Captain Whitfield, a man of strong character, accustomed to command, resolute in action, well worthy to sway the rod of empire in higher spheres of life. In befriending Nakahama he unconsciously was building the foundation for a future last-

ing friendship between the United States and Japan. His life was a busy one, full of hardships and adventure. He represented an age that is past, but it is to men of his sturdy character that we owe our country as it is today. The whaling captain of seventy-five years ago represented our best stock. At that time the whaling industry was one of our most valuable industries; New Bedford, together with Fairhaven and Mattapoisett, was the greatest whaling port in the world. Today that great industry has almost disappeared, but even now, occasionally we run down to the docks to greet some returning whaler, a symbol of the good old days now gone forever. The character of these sturdy whaling captains has left its impress upon us, and we look back upon their adventurous careers with delight and enthusiasm.

It is indeed fortunate, however, that we have with us today the son and the grandchildren of Captain Whitfield; a grandson today is one of the selectmen of this town. Through them, therefore, we can truly feel in touch with Captain Whitfield, whose memory, as well as that of Nakahama, we reverence today.

The presence here of Viscount Ishii, the Ambassador of Japan, one of the world's great powers, to carry out the spirit of filial devotion of the son to the father, marks the day, as I have said, as one of the most eventful in the history of this town. It is also filled with significance not only to us, but, as well, to the people of our commonwealth, so fittingly represented by His Honor Lieutenant Governor Coolidge, and to the people of the entire country.

It has been my good fortune to meet the ambassadors who have represented Japan in this country

for the past twenty-five years, and in some cases I have known them intimately. They have been men of the highest character and standing and have most ably represented their country. Without invidious distinction, however, permit me to express the opinion that there has never been during that time, an ambassador from that great country who has in such a short time so endeared himself to our people, as has Viscount Ishii. His charming personality, his courtesy and his pre-eminent ability have captivated our hearts, and we fully appreciate the great honor he has conferred upon the people of this town by his presence here today.

We recognize, as well, the spirit of friendship and good will toward our nation on the part of the great country which the ambassador so worthily represents, which is manifested by his presence here: and we send our most sincere greetings, through him, to his sovereign, the emperor, and to the people of his great country.

We welcome him not alone as the bearer of this unique gift, but, as well, as the representative of one of our great Allies who, with the United States, have set out to place the freedom and peace of the world upon a secure and lasting foundation: our joint efforts will never cease until that lasting good has been accomplished.

When the history of this terrible war is written, the services to the cause of peace and freedom rendered by Japan, our great ally, will occupy a most conspicuous place. It suffices for my purpose to point out that at the outbreak of the European war, Japan carried out the terms of her treaty with Great Britain by declaring war on Germany. The world, however,

knew before this that a treaty entered into on the part of Japan is a sacred obligation and not "a scrap of paper." She forbade her people to trade with the enemy, thus destroying a very large trade with Germany, to the substantial injury of many of her own people; she drove Germany out of China by the capture of Tingtao, and the effect of this action as regards the trade of the world is of almost illimitable importance. She took all the island possessions of Germany in the Pacific Ocean; she wiped out the last vestige of the German fleet on the Pacific; she sent her warships to the Mediterranean, where they have been valiantly co-operating with the Allied fleet. She sent vast quantities of stores to Russia; she sent heavy guns to Russia, and—if rumor be true—they were accompanied by expert gunners. She loaned large sums of money to Russia and she placed her mints at the disposal of the Russian government for coinage purposes. She has loaned the Allies hundreds of millions of dollars; she has sent them enormous quantities of supplies; she has sent to them the bulk of her copper products—second only to those of the United States—in one form or another. Her Red Cross is sending to them stretchers, bandages, absorbent cotton, and many other similar supplies. She has sent medical units to England, France, Russia, Roumania and other places. She has combatted German propaganda in China and in India, not to speak of the insidious plots hatched in her own country. At the present time over one thousand Japanese laborers, naturalized in Canada, are fighting with the Canadians in France. She sent a commission to Washington last year, headed by our distinguished guest, Viscount Ishii, to discuss methods

of co-operation with the United States in the war. She sent us also last year, a finance commission headed by Baron Megata, a graduate of the Harvard Law school, to study financial questions arising out of the war. As a partial result of the work of this finance commission, the Bank of Japan now acts as correspondent and foreign agent of the federal reserve system of the United States. In short, Japan has co-operated with the United States, both as to war, trade and finance, in an invaluable manner.

All these achievements represent the voluntary contribution of this great nation toward the peace of the world. It represents a welding together of the civilization of the east with that of the west in a common purpose, and nothing can swerve us from that purpose until a complete, decisive victory has been achieved.

I wish I had time to dwell in some detail upon the history of Japan. I have personally experienced the charm of its civilization and the hospitality of its people. Its present dynasty goes back for 2500 years. It was a highly cultured, civilized nation at a time when European countries were but beginning to experience the first glimmering rays of the dawn of civilization.

The events we record today were the beginning of the friendship between our two countries, which has continued unbroken since the sojourn of Nakahama in Fairhaven down to the present time, and which it is our earnest hope and belief will remain unbroken forever.

Fairhaven today is a long distance from Japan. In the old days, however, it seemed even further removed. When Nakahama dwelt with us, foreigners

were not permitted to land in Japan, nor were Japanese permitted to leave their country. Our whaling captains, however, frequently were found in Japanese waters, and brought back most interesting rumors of this wonderful country. At the time when Nakahama returned to Japan, Commodore Perry had not yet visited that country to negotiate the treaty which meant so much to the United States and the other great countries representing western civilization. Tradition has it that Nakahama acted as one of the interpreters on the occasion of Perry's visit. Whether this be true or not, we cannot but believe that his presence in Japan and his power of interpretation of the American character, must have assisted in molding the minds of the Japanese in their final determination to open up their country to western civilization. We should not forget that up to the year 1685, Japan had practically unrestricted intercourse and a very large trade with the western nations. In that year, however—for reasons which I shall not undertake to enumerate—she determined it to be for her best interest, to expel all foreigners, and for a period of two hundred and fifty years all trade relations were suspended, except to a very limited extent with the Dutch at Nagasaki.

It was, as I have said, two hundred and fifty years before this curtain which thus fell was again lifted. History has revealed the effect of this two hundred and fifty years of isolation upon Japan, and it will prove most fascinating reading. We find an aristocratic government, but, at the same time, a broad democracy. We find villages and communities like New England towns, with power to make their own local laws. The payment of taxes was regarded generally as a privilege.

Poverty was rather a mark of distinction. Agriculture was raised to the dignity of a profession. The land holdings were small but carefully and intensively cultivated. As a whole, the masses of the people were more prosperous than they were during the same period in Europe.

If I were asked to express the soul of Japan, I should say that it lay in loyalty and patriotism. If we wish to study the development of religion we turn to Judea: if we seek to trace out the sources of art we turn to Greece, but if we wish to find the sources of patriotism and of loyalty, we must turn to Japan.

The duties imposed upon me today will always live as a keen delight in my memory. As I have said, I have tasted Japanese hospitality. I have studied its institutions at close range. I can testify from personal observation of the marvelous growth and development of the country. In 1897, I had the honor of being sent to Japan by President McKinley, as a commissioner of the United States to arrange for a treaty between the two countries in connection with the fur seal fisheries. This gave me an opportunity for meeting the people and of studying their institutions, which opportunity I gladly embraced, and it left me filled with admiration for the country and its people.

There are other personal reasons for my interest. In 1832, Captain Edmund Roberts of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, great grandfather of Mrs. Hamlin, was sent by President Andrew Jackson to negotiate treaties with Japan and other eastern countries. His untimely death at Macao prevented him from realizing his earnest hope of entering into a treaty with Japan. In 1862, or thereabouts, Robert Pruyn, of

Albany, New York, a cousin of Mrs. Hamlin, went to Japan as the first minister accredited to that country, succeeding Townsend Harris, who had been consul-general. Thus you will realize, what a deep interest we have in that wonderful country and the pleasure it gives me to be permitted to take a part, if only a minor part, in these proceedings today.

There only remains for me again to thank the ambassador for his presence here with us; to express our deepest appreciation of this unique gift, and, as well, our earnest hope and prayer that the present relations of trust, confidence and deep friendship between our two countries will remain unbroken forever, and that our union with Japan and with our other Allies may finally establish forever the peace and security of the world. This peace can best be achieved and maintained by the joint co-operation of the civilization of the east and of the west, and when achieved, secure in the freedom and peace which we have won for them, our children and our children's children—whether in Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia or the United States—will rise up and call our memories blessed.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN FLAG, FROM
THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF FAIRHAVEN
TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN.

Masters Willard Delano Whitfield and Wellington Bingham.

Address by Master Bingham.

The children of the west greet the children of the far east. Through the ambassador of the imperial Japanese government, the children of the town of Fairhaven, this day so signally honored, extend the warm band of international good-will to all the youth of that island gem beyond the seas.

They express their appreciation of the filial affection of that honored citizen who has made this occasion possible. They express their appreciation of that rare spirit of international comity, that has leaped ten thousand miles of sea and land and conveyed to the citizens of our town the friendly feelings of a great people; and they express a justifiable pride that these same schools three-quarters of a century ago were the pioneers in bringing together the new learning, the new civilization of the western world and the old civilization and the old learning of the lands where history first began.

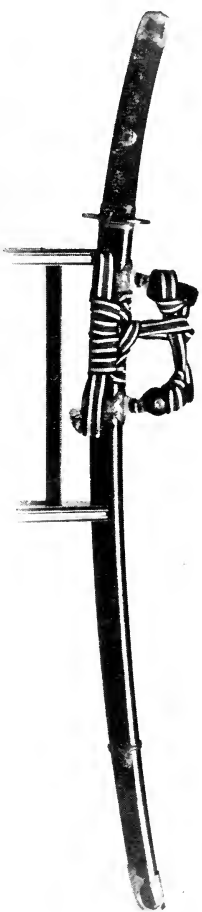
Then, to you, Viscount Ishii, as the personal representative of Doctor Nakahama, as the official representative of the imperial empire of Japan and as symbolizing all the people of your wondrous nation—above all to you as the messenger from and to the children of your fair country, we present this

emblem of the United States of America. May it fly to the breezes of your homeland side by side with your fair banner and serve to weld more firmly the chain of traditional friendship that has for so long existed between these, our two nations, the Queen of the Occident and the Queen of the Orient.

THE SWORD.

The Sword, presented by Professor Dr. Toichiro Nakahama of Tokio to the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in grateful commemoration of the happy event that his father's life was saved by Captain William H. Whitfield, who was born in that town,—is of the kind known as Tachi, which was worn on the occasion of Court Ceremonies. The kind known as Katana, which was exclusively for use by the Samurai class, was worn with the edge of the blade upward. The Tachi, however, was worn on the left side with the edge of the blade downward. The flat string is for use when the sword is to be worn. It is first untied and put round the body about the loins to hold the sword in a horizontal position.

The blade, when judged by its characteristic features, is of the pure Bizen school and belongs to the class of production of the period corresponding to the early part of the fourteenth century of the Christian era. The blade originally was much longer and was shortened to be adjusted to the stature of the owner about the middle of the fourteen century when a close battle formation of the foot soldiers armed with drawn swords came into vogue. Consequently, the part of the tang on which the maker's name must have been inscribed had to be cut off.



THE SAMURAI SWORD PRESENTED BY DR. NAKAHAMA TO FAIRHAVEN.

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